

DRAFT

Update to Project Study Report (TAM Regional Roads) including responses to TAM Technical Advisory Committee questions from June 15th TAM TAC meeting.

September 21, 2206

Responsible Agency: City of Novato
Project Name: Novato Boulevard - Diablo Avenue to San Marin Drive

The project's scope, scheduling, and cost estimate is unchanged from that contained in the March 28, 2006 Project Study Report (Regional Roads) for the project (attached), with the exception of the following items of progress/ change.

1. On August 8, 2006, City of Novato City Council approved the project work scope for the segment 2 portion of this project (attached). The City of Novato will present a funding allocation request for the project development costs (including environmental) of \$ 71,967 for this segment. This is the only Measure A fund allocation request for this project for FY 2006/07.
2. The City of Novato has reviewed the TAM TAC comments and questions resulting from the June 15 presentation of the Novato Boulevard project (attached), and has added responses and clarifications, where required, in underlined text to the question/ comment/ answer printout.

City of Novato Responses to Questions from the

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, June 15TH, 2006

The following text is taken from the 'draft' minutes of the 6/15/06 TAM TAC meeting. Additional input beyond that provided at the meeting is shown in underline italics text.

Novato project (Novato Boulevard from Diablo Avenue to San Marin Drive)

Craig introduced Glenn Young, Public Works Director, and Julian Skinner, Senior Engineer, for the City of Novato. Julian reviewed the Project Study Report for Northern Marin's priority project – Novato Blvd between Diablo Avenue and San Marin Drive in the City of Novato. After the presentation TAC members and the public provided the following comments and questions regarding the project. The responses, unless otherwise indicated, are from Julian Skinner.

TAC member comments

Bob Brown – are you relocating buildings?

Yes, based on preliminary information it looks like six houses need to be moved. The City has commenced with topographic field surveying, but has yet to compile the data to the point where a more accurate determination of the number of relocations can be made.

Bob Brown – will you have to buy right-of-way?

Yes. The City will commence with right-of-way negotiations upon completion of the project's environmental documentation.

Mike DiGiorgio – how much Measure B funds will be used?

None are planned, since Measure B funds must be spent by 2009. There will be a Measure B funded skin patch in this area this summer. The current schedule is to implement this project in 2011. The AC skin patch for Novato Boulevard from Diablo Avenue to Boulevard Terrace has been awarded to Ghilotti Bros. Construction as part of the City's Measure B Bond Group 4 CIP project, and is scheduled for paving in October, 2006.

Mike DiGiorgio – How much Measure A funding will be used?

Measure A funding requested is \$6.0 million. The actual numbers per the project study report are; for segment 1, \$6.6 million; for segment 2, \$524,567; and for segment 3, \$452,200, for a project total of \$7.6 million, of which \$6.0 million is designated for construction.

Mike DiGiorgio – there are major back-ups today, this is a much needed project. There are several large trees that must be removed, which is a concern.

Jean Bonander – I hope that all utilities are well coordinated. *The City has been in discussion with utility companies, and both North Marin Water District and Novato Sanitary District have indicated they may wish to upgrade existing underground utilities either prior to or in conjunction with the City's improvement project.*

Al Zahradnik – Golden Gate Transit has several bus stops. There is one near-side stop southbound near Tamalpais that could be improved.

We will look at improvements and making it far-side. This is located in segment 1, and will be evaluated once the topographic information is available, and the project scope is refined during the environmental process.

Marvin Giacomini – with six foot bike lanes, can you avoid using the gutter as part of the width? The City will look at it. Segments 1 and 2 already include continuous bike lanes, the configurations of which will not be altered by this project. The proposed design for segment 3 includes bike lanes on both sides of the street, which may or may not include a portion of the gutter pan. The City will look at reducing gutter width and or slope to better accommodate bike traffic, and the feasibility of the same regarding impacts to street width and street/ gutter drainage.

Rocky Birdsey – Can you use a smaller gutter, less than 24" wide? See response to above.

Doug Wilson – wants the best alignment used for the bike lanes.

Segment 1 (Diablo Ave to Grant Avenue) fills the gap between the bike lanes that exist to north and south.

Rocky Birdsey – Segment 3, need a continuous pedestrian path, at least on one side. Are you looking at utility pole issues?

The utilities will be placed under ground. Segments 1 and 2 already include continuous pedestrian access on both sides of the street. Proposed segment 3 improvements include continuous pedestrian paths on both sides of the street for the full length of the project.

Rocky Birdsey - right-of-way costs are not Measure A eligible. Per the 'draft' Strategic Plan, Section IV 'Implementation Guidelines', Subsection A.5 'Eligible and Ineligible Costs', right-of-way acquisition is an eligible cost.

Hamid Shamsapour – what is the ADT?

The ADT is 13,000 vehicles

Hamid Shamsapour - Did you look at keeping just two lanes?

The Level of Service is E today, therefore four lanes are needed.

Hamid Shamsapour - What are the property owners' comments?

We are talking to them now. We are now performing surveys.

Andy Preston – regarding your cash-flow, how will you get the \$6 million, when the Northern Planning Area only gets about \$8.6 over 20 years?

Craig Tackabery stated that TAM will be looking together with sponsors at strategies to leverage funds.

Andy Preston - Be careful which funds you use for the various project elements due to eligibility limitations.

Alan Zahradnik – consider bus shelters and furniture where feasible at transit stops. The City will work with Golden Gate Transit, and citizens during the public workshop process, as well as reviewing site constraints and available funding to determine the scope for any such additions to the project.

Jean Bonander – Are you using Rule 20A under grounding funds? Yes – existing overhead utilities from just east of Diablo to Boulevard Terrace will be undergrounded – the existing utilities are already underground for the remainder of the project.

Andy Preston – how much does it cost to move or slide a house?

Approximately \$100,000. This is an average cost, as some houses will require only minor adjustments, whereas some will require complete relocation. For cost estimating purposes the \$100,000 figure has been used for twelve houses – it is unlikely that all twelve will require relocation. The City will not refine this number until the detailed topographic information is available, and a more accurate determination of required house relocation/ modifications is made.

Bob Brown – are the estimated costs inflated?

All construction estimates are current year; the right of way has an escalation factor included.

Mike DiGiorgio – look at Hill Middle School access issues. *Access to Hill Middle School, located approximately one-half mile south of the site on Diablo Avenue will be indirectly affected (improved) by the replacement of the traffic signal at the intersection of Diablo Avenue and Novato Boulevard, scheduled with Segment 1 construction*

Andy Preston – need a certified right of way agent. The cost estimates for relocating homes may be low. Look at Measure A local infrastructure funds for funding. *The City is also looking at the STIP.*

Public Comments

Rocky Birdsey – will non-motorized users be able to use the closed streets?

On Los Alondras Court, the City will be moving a house into the space. On Pine Avenue, the City is looking at a land swap. We don't know, but issue is not closed.

Rocky Birdsey– how long is Segment 1 of the project?

Segment 1 is 0.7 mile.

Patrick Seidler – add pedestrian markings and safety features, particularly at Diablo Road, islands and countdown pedestrian signal heads. Need to clearly mark pedestrian crossings. Work with SR2S group on high priorities. *The City will research and evaluate such alternatives with the detail project design.*

Eric Anderson – add high visibility cross-walks, pedestrian refuge medians at Diablo Road. *The City will research and evaluate such alternatives with the detail project design.*

Craig Tackabery requested that San Rafael follow the next steps as outlined in the Program Development Process:

Project sponsor updates the Project Study Report to reflect changes as a result of comments received that are agreed to by sponsor.

Project sponsor (city, town or county) has a public meeting where final project scope is approved by legislative body. Project sponsor's meeting agenda packet shall contain copies of all comments from the TAC meeting and written responses.

Then bring the project to the TAM Board for funding allocations.